

COMPANY CONTROL IS IN NEW HANDS

Petersburg Gas Passes Into Ownership of Philadelphia Corporation.

MAY MEAN CHANGES

Policy Will Be Made Known When President Stroud Comes.

Times-Dispatch Bureau, Petersburg, Va., May 3.—The franchise, business and property of the Petersburg Gas Company, of which Richard D. Apperson, of Lynchburg, was president, and Edward C. Pond, manager, have changed hands, the controlling stock having been purchased by the American Gas Company, of Philadelphia, of which Morris W. Stroud is president, and W. Parkinon, both of that city, are secretary-treasurer. The Petersburg Gas Company is the only company furnishing gas in the city, and has valuable properties and a large patronage here. No details of the transaction have been made public. It is said that President Stroud will arrive in the city in a few days, when the policy of the company will be made known, and probably some changes announced in the local office. The American Gas Company owns twenty other gas properties.

Colored Man Received.
Information was received here today of the drowning last night in James River, of Westover, of Robert Ridley (colored), about twenty-one years old, formerly of this city, but recently living with his mother at Westover, and employed there. The details of the drowning are not given, but it is stated that he was out rowing in a small boat with a companion and accidentally fell overboard.

Successful Revival Closed.
The revival which has been in progress for two weeks at the First Baptist Church in this city, closed last night. Dr. B. Farrar, of Kentucky, preached every night during the meetings, and last night the crowd that went to hear him could not all be accommodated. He preached four times yesterday to the Sunday school, at the regular morning service, to men only in the afternoon on the subject "Secret Sins of Men," and finally at night.

He is recognized as one of the strongest and most effective preachers of his faith. Fifty persons were converted at these meetings, and the spiritual standing of many others strengthened. Dr. Farrar left today for Birmingham, Ala., where he has accepted pastoral charge of a church.

Not the Missing Man.
Justice Dunstan, of Chesterfield county, was communicated with today relative to the identity of the man found drowned several weeks ago in the Appomattox diversion channel in that county, and upon whose body he held an inquest. A letter had been received from S. M. Thompson, of Thelma, N. C., giving a description of a cousin long missing, and expressing the fear that it might be the drowned man. Justice Dunstan says that the description given does not at all answer to that of the dead man, and moreover, the latter was identified by papers on his person as Charles Bachem, of Palermo, Cal. Nothing has ever been heard from friends of Bachem.

Violent Assault With Brick and Axe.
Two warrants, each charging felonious assault with intent to kill, were issued yesterday against John Turner (negro), but Turner has disappeared, and the police have not been able to find him. The parties assaulted were innocent of offense, and good luck alone saved them from very serious or fatal injuries. Turner, partially intoxicated, entered a stable on Lombard Street, and behaved so badly that he was driven out at the points of a pitchfork.

He swore vengeance as he left, and



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this vengeance, it seems, was visited on entirely inoffensive parties. The first man he met was Henry Jones, colored, whom he twice assailed with bricks, inflicting severe wounds on the head. The second man he met was Alfred Hicks, colored, whom, without explanation or provocation, he assaulted with an axe, cutting an ugly gash on the side of the head. The blow of the axe might have crushed through the skull. Both the victims received medical attention.

News Personal and Otherwise.
The organization of business men and others to oppose prohibition in Petersburg has established headquarters on Tabb Street near Sycamore, and will get to work without delay.

Petersburg is to have a surfeit of elections this year—four of them, in fact. The Democratic primary for the nomination of candidates for the several municipal offices will be held on Friday, May 7. On the 27th of this month the local option election will be held to decide whether or not the liquor traffic shall be abolished in Petersburg. In August comes the State primary, and in November the general election. It is hardly necessary to state that the local option election is exciting more interest than any or all of the others combined, and the biggest vote of recent years. Under the old regime she sometimes polled over 4,000 votes. Under the poll-tax system the vote has fallen as low as 1,500. It is believed it will exceed 2,000 on the liquor question.

Mayor William M. Jones will send a message to the Common Council tomorrow recommending the appointment of an inspector of buildings for the city. An ordinance will have to be introduced creating the office, prescribing the duties and fixing the pay of the officer, and the matter will probably be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report.

A race meet, in which some of the best horses in Petersburg will be matched for trotting, has been arranged for the 23rd instant on the Riverside tracks. There are to be four races.

The first anti-saloon mass meeting of the local option campaign will be held to-morrow night in the Academy of Music, and the speakers will be Art. or Kyle Davis, of this city; R. S. Barbour, of South Boston, and Dr. J. D. McAllister, of the State Anti-Saloon League. Other public meetings are to be held later, and distinguished prohibition speakers from other States will deliver addresses. Dr. G. W. Dyer, of Vanderbilt University, will be here two days; Evangelists Stuart and Wright will be here.

Two Deaths.
Mrs. Lella J. Sykes, widow of S. W. Sykes, died yesterday at her home, 106 Fondale Avenue, after a long illness. She was forty-seven years old, and is

MAN SPEAKS TO PULASKI PEOPLE THROUGH THE ROOF

In Brief Address Candidate Re-cites Planks of His Platform.

Prisoner Cuts Hole in Albemarle County Jail and Wins His Freedom.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PULASKI, VA., May 3.—Judge William H. Mann spoke here today to a rather small crowd, which he explained, was due to the fact that there was a misunderstanding as to the hour at which he was to speak. Judge Mann allowed Judge Mann the use of the courthouse while he adjourned court for dinner, where, his time being limited to half an hour, he hurried over the school question and advocated a department of agriculture in all of the high schools of the State. He touched lightly on the road question and pensions for the old soldiers, saying that he expected to be nominated and elected Governor of Virginia and would give these matters special attention.

On the liquor question Judge Mann said that when it came to the question of "wet" or "dry" he would always vote "dry." He said that he had been accused of making promises, but denied emphatically that he had made a promise of any kind to any person, either directly or indirectly, and would not do so, that he would go into office untrammelled and free to carry out the duties of the office according to the dictates of his own heart and mind, and would try to give an administration for which the best and truest would not be said.

At this time there has been some interest in the race between Mann and Tucker in Pulaski county, but it is believed that Tucker will carry the county by a safe majority.

MANY ARE GOING.

Y. M. C. A. Conference Will Be Held at Montreat in June.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., May 3.—Much interest is being manifested in the College Y. M. C. A. conference at Asheville, N. C., this year, and it is probable that a delegation of twenty men will have a delegation of twenty men at the big gathering, which begins June 10 and continues ten days. Among those who have already signified their intention of going to the conference are R. B. Taylor, W. W. Brock, J. G. King, G. G. Shannon, Alfred Anderson, O. R. Easley, W. S. Dabney and Larry Martin.

The conference is growing in significance each year. Last year 400 college men were there, representing every college in the South which has a Y. M. C. A. organization. Although the gathering is really held at Montreat, N. C., which is out in the mountains from Asheville. There a large hotel has been built, and splendid facilities are afforded for such an event. Each day's program is filled with Bible studies under the greatest thinkers in the country, and with athletics.

COMPROMISE REFUSED.

Simpkins' Offer to Accept Eighteen Years Is of No Avail.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PULASKI, VA., May 3.—The trial of Princeton Simpkins for the killing of Edward R. Hoades was commenced this morning in Circuit Court here. Simpson, before Judge T. Massie, pleaded guilty on January 19, shot and killed E. D. Rhoades in a drunken brawl in Pulaski county, and was sentenced to the State Penitentiary for a term of eighteen years in the penitentiary. Simpson, however, refused to accept this. In the case is intense, and the trial is largely evidence which probably require several days. The testimony so far introduced is very damaging to the accused. Simpson, however, between the counsel promises to be a spirited one.

STATE CONTEST.

Orators from Seven Colleges Will Contest at Charlottesville.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., May 3.—Final arrangements are now being made for the State oratorical contest, which will be held in Cabell Hall, at the University of Virginia, Saturday night. Seven colleges will be represented, as follows: Virginia, Richmond College, Randolph-Macon, Washington and Lee, Roanoke College, William and Mary and Emory and Henry.

The judges selected are Dr. H. E. Johnson, pastor of the First Methodist Church, this city; Professor J. S. Thomas, of Richmond, and Dr. McBride, of Staunton.

POST-OFFICE ROBBED.

Twice in Three Days Burglars Have Made Offences.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
SUFFOLK, VA., May 3.—The second post-office robbery in this section within three days occurred last night at Magnolia, where entrance was gained through a window of Richard P. Phillips' store, in which the post-office is located, and according to the police report, a lot of stamps and money orders and a small sum of cash were secured. Its combination was broken, but the safe resisted, the thieves' assaults. The alleged burglar of the Feltz post-office was run down by bloodhounds.

AGED WOMAN A SUICIDE.

Mrs. J. E. Pope, Seventy Years Old, Fires Gun at Her Heart.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
FRONT ROYAL, VA., May 3.—Mrs. J. E. Pope, aged seventy years, was committed suicide at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Albert Greenwall, by shooting herself through the heart with a shotgun. The act was committed about noon to-day, and her absence was not noticed until dinner was ready to be served. When found, her clothing was on fire. No cause is known for her act. She is survived by several daughters.

Both Go to Jail.

DANVILLE, VA., May 3.—E. E. Haley and George E. Jones, both white, who were convicted of the murder of a man of the Corporation Court for selling whiskey without license, both went to jail to-day, Judge Alken refusing to extend their bonds any longer, pending an appeal. The case is now pending before the Supreme Court. Both are under a sixty days' sentence.

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TRUCK DAMAGED BY HEAVY FROST Early Vegetables and Fruits Again Nipped by the Low Temperature. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LYNCHBURG, VA., May 3.—A heavy frost, attended by a temperature of 36 degrees as recorded by the government thermometers on the top of the law building, it is feared, has done considerable damage, especially to early truck patches and gardens in and about the city. What effect the frost will have on remaining fruit cannot be ascertained as yet.

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